

Dagaare language

Dagaare is the maternal language of the Dagaaba people in Ghana and Burkina Faso. It has been described as a dialect continuum that also includes Waale and Birifor.

Ethnologue divides Dagaare into three languages:

- Southern/Central Dagaare language, which is spoken mainly in Ghana
- Northern Dagara language, which is spoken mainly in Burkina Faso
- Dagaari Dioula, which is spoken mainly in Burkina Faso, and has significant influence from the genetically unrelated Dioula language

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Phonology

The consonant and vowel sounds in the Dagaare languages:

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
<u>Close</u>	i		u
	ɪ		ʊ
<u>Close-mid</u>	e		o
<u>Open-mid</u>	ɛ		ɔ
<u>Open</u>		a	

Consonants

Dagaare	
Native to	Ghana, Burkina Faso
Ethnicity	Dagaaba people
Native speakers	1.1 million (2001–2003) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gur<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oti–Volta<ul style="list-style-type: none">Moré–Dagbani<ul style="list-style-type: none">Moré<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dagaare</div>
Writing system	Latin (Dagaare alphabet) <div>Dagaare Braille</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: <div>dga – Southern Dagaare</div> <div>dgd – Dagaari Dioula</div> <div>dgi – Northern Dagara</div>
Glottolog	sout2789 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sout2789) <div>Central Dagaare^[2]</div> <div>daga1272 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/daga1272)<div>Dagaari Dioula^[3]</div></div> <div>nort2780 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nort2780)<div>Northern Dagara^[4]</div></div>



Majority areas of Northern Dagara speakers, in red, on a map of Burkina Faso.

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labio-dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Post-Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Labio-velar</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t				k	ʔ
	<u>voiced</u>	b		d				g	
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>				t͡ɕ		k͡p		
	<u>voiced</u>				d͡ʒ		ɡ͡b		
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiceless</u>		f	s					h
	<u>voiced</u>		v	z					
	<u>implosive</u>								ʼh
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>plain</u>	m		n		ɲ	ŋ͡m	ŋ	
	<u>implosive</u>	ʼm							
<u>Lateral</u>	<u>plain</u>			l					
	<u>implosive</u>			ʼl					
<u>Approximant</u>						j	w		

Allophones of /d, g/ include [r, ɣ].^[5]

References

1. Southern Dagaare (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dga/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Dagaari Dioula (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dgd/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Northern Dagara (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dgi/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Central Dagaare" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sout2789>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Dagaari Dioula" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/daga1272>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Northern Dagara" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nort2780>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
5. Bodomo, Adams (1997). *The Structure of Dagaare*. Stanford University.

External links

- [Alphabet and pronunciation \(http://www.omniglot.com/writing/dagaare.htm\)](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/dagaare.htm) at *Omniglot*
- [Bodomo, Adams, "The Dagaare language and its speakers: Introduction" \(http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff/intro_dagPro.htm\)](http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff/intro_dagPro.htm)
- [PanAfriL10n page on Dagaare \(http://www.bisharat.net/wikidoc/pmwiki.php/PanAfrLoc/Dagaare\)](http://www.bisharat.net/wikidoc/pmwiki.php/PanAfrLoc/Dagaare)
- [Bibliography of Dagaare Studies \(https://web.archive.org/web/20110419001955/http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff_ab.DagaareBibliog.html\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20110419001955/http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff_ab.DagaareBibliog.html)
- [Journal of Dagaare Studies \(https://web.archive.org/web/20110608132621/http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/staff/Bodomo/JDS/all.html\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20110608132621/http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/staff/Bodomo/JDS/all.html)
- [Database of audio recordings in Dagara - basic Catholic prayers \(http://dominicweb.eu/en/endictionaries/exotic-languages-prayers?dgi\)](http://dominicweb.eu/en/endictionaries/exotic-languages-prayers?dgi)

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